

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03

ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 H-02 NSC-05 AS-01 /076 W

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R 311705Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1975

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 10289

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU, CY

SUBJECT: CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S OFFER OF FRG GOOD OFFICES IN
GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS

REFS: (A) ATHENS 10247 (B) BARBIS/DAY TELECON

1. ON AT LEAST TWO OCCASIONS DURING HIS DECEMBER 28-29
OFFICIAL VISIT TO ATHENS (REF A), CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT
MADE PUBLIC REFERENCE TO AN FRG OFFER OF GOOD OFFICES IN
CONNECTION WITH GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS. THE FIRST
REFERENCE WAS INDIRECT, BUT IT RESULTED NONETHELESS IN
THE DUSKO DODER WASHINGTON POST "OFFERS TO MEDIATE"
STORY.

2. IN A TOAST AT THE OFFICIAL DINNER IN HIS HONOR ON
DECEMBER 28 THE CHANCELLOR SAID (TEXT FROM THE SEMI-
OFFICIAL ATHENS NEW AGENCY BULLETIN): "THE SECURITY OF
ALL OF US DEPENDS ON PEACE IN THE SOUTHEASTERN END OF
EUROPE. MY COUNTRY MAINTAINS MANY FACETED AND TRADITIONAL
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RELATIONS IN THIS PART OF EUROPE AND IT WILL BE PREPARED

(ALSO) IN THE FUTURE TO PLACE AT THE DISPOSAL OF ANYONE (CONCERNED) ITS GOOD OFFICES FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF DIFFERENCES, THE CLARIFICATION OF WHICH IS OF INTEREST TO EUROPEAN SECURITY."

3. AT THE JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE THE CHANCELLOR HAD WITH PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS AT THE CONCLUSION OF THEIR TALKS ON DECEMBER 29, SCHMIDT WAS ASKED WHETHER HE COULD ADD ANYTHING TO HIS EARLIER STATEMENT (IN HIS TOAST) WHICH IMPLIED THAT THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO OFFER ITS GOOD OFFICES FOR THE NORMALIZATION OF GREEK-TURKISH DIFFERENCES. THE CHANCELLOR REPLIED THAT HE HAD NOTHING TO ADD ON THE SUBJECT EXCEPT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD MADE THE SAME OFFER, IN THE SAME MANNER, AND FOR THE SAME PURPOSE, TO THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT.

4. COMMENT: AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, THE FRG, FRANCE AND ITALY (THE LATTER AS SPOKESMAN FOR THE EC-9) HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN RECENT MONTHS IN ATTEMPTING TO BE HELPFUL IN MOVING GREECE AND ESPECIALLY TURKEY TOWARD A RESUMPTION OF THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS ON CYPRUS. FRG AND ITALIAN EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES HERE, IN CONFIRMING THESE ACTIVITIES TO US, HAVE EMPHASIZED THAT THE ABOVE REFERENCES TO FRG GOOD OFFICES WERE MADE BY SCHMIDT IN THIS CONTEXT. THE FRG DCM TOLD US THAT NEITHER GREECE NOR TURKEY HAS ASKED THE FRG TO EXERCISE GOOD OFFICES (AND AT THE DECEMBER 29 PRESS CONFERENCE, CARAMANLIS SAID THERE IS NO NEED FOR MEDIATION AT THIS POINT--REF A). HE ADDED THE GERMANS HAVE BEEN TRYING TO BE HELPFUL BUT "NOTHING SPECIAL IS GOING ON RIGHT NOW." THE ITALIAN COUNSELOR ALSO TOLD US THAT THE GERMANS HAVE BEEN QUIETLY ACTIVE BEHIND THE SCENES, ESPECIALLY IN ANKARA, BUT WITHOUT ANY SPECIAL RESULTS. AN MFA OFFICIAL DESCRIBED GERMANY'S ACTIVITIES ALONG SIMILAR LINES, POINTING TO THE SPECIAL INFLUENCE THE GERMANS HAVE WITH THE TURKS, AND INTERPRETED THE CHANCELLOR'S REMARKS DURING HIS VISIT HERE TO BE IN LINE WITH THE GENERALLY HELPFUL ROLE THE GERMANS HAVE BEEN TRYING TO PLAY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARBITRATION, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ATHENS10289
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750452-0236
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975122/aaaaabpu.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ATHENS 10247
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <30 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S OFFER OF FRG GOOD OFFICES IN GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, GR, TU, CY, GE, (SCHMIDT, HELMUT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006